

Matthew has been recognized as a valuable member of Troop 15, and has served in various leadership positions like Troop Guide and Senior Patrol Leader. His Eagle Scout project was to clean, repair, and refurbish an outdoor band shell for the picnic grove of the Salem UCC Church in Dover, Pennsylvania.

I have long appreciated the commitment of people who demonstrate hard work and selfless devotion to serving our communities and fellow citizens. On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I recognize and congratulate Eagle Scout Matthew Brittain on his great accomplishment and community service. I wish Matthew continued success and Godspeed in his future adventures.

HONORING JEFF AND DANAE
SPONSEL

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Jeff and Danae Sponsel for their contribution to our state and country.

Over the years, Jeff and Danae have served the City of Shelbyville and Shelby County in a variety of roles with honor and distinction. Jeff is always quick with a joke, yet has a fiery passion for serving his fellow Hoosiers. He has spent years serving in various positions in the community, including on the City Council and as the Shelby County Election Deputy. Danae is a rock star and has dedicated herself toward advancing Republican principles with the local party. It has been an honor to work with them and our state is better off today because of their extraordinary leadership and service.

On a personal note, Jeff and Danae were among my earliest supporters of my first run for the state legislature. Jennifer and I cherish our friendship with both Jeff and Danae and I would like to thank them for their support of my work in Congress. We wish them continued success in all that God has planned for their family.

JIM KENNEDY RETIRES FROM THE
VICTORVILLE CITY COUNCIL

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of outgoing Victorville City Council Member Jim Kennedy who will leave the dais on Tuesday, December 4, 2018.

Jim was first elected to Victorville City Council in 2010 and has served the city for eight years, including terms as Mayor and Mayor Pro-tem. In addition to his position as council member, Jim has served as a board member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Inland Empire Chapter of the California Society of CPAs, the City Audit Committee, and as a delegate to Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority.

During his time on the council, Jim has been a passionate advocate for Victorville and its residents. He supported key infrastructure projects including the Nisqualli/La Mesa interchange, which provided a key transit corridor to help alleviate traffic congestion. Jim also fought to keep Victorville residents safe, and consistently voted to add additional sheriff's deputies and firefighters to the city's budget.

I thank Council Member Jim Kennedy for his leadership and dedication to public service on behalf of Victorville residents. Jim has been a true model of civility and decorum on the Victorville City Council, and he will be sorely missed.

RECOGNIZING EVAN GWOZDZ

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Evan Gwozdz, a student-athlete from Middleborough, Massachusetts and the National Recipient of the 2017–2018 Student-Athlete Scholarship from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

Each year, the NIAAA awards scholarships to high school student-athletes who exemplify the qualities of scholastic excellence, leadership, and sportsmanship. Without question, Evan was a worthy selection for this prestigious award. An honors student in the classroom, Evan was his class valedictorian, a National Merit Scholar, and a national winner of the Rensselaer Medal for outstanding achievements in math and science. As a high-profile athlete and the top student in his class at Middleborough High School, Evan demonstrates a true commitment to excellence in Massachusetts.

On the field, Evan lettered in football, baseball, and track, garnering numerous awards during his high school career. Evan led his indoor track team in points and was a South Shore League long jump champion; played three years of varsity baseball without ever getting caught stealing; and led Middleborough High School to their first state football championship since 1983 while being named the Boston Globe Division 6 Player of the Year.

A native of Cape Cod, Evan was intrinsically driven at an early age. Starting in third grade, he began a meticulous schedule juggling a multitude of academic, athletic, and extracurricular commitments. He had never played football before he joined the team in high school, so he took extra time to improve his game—a commitment that has undoubtedly paid off. Evan is currently a quarterback at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology while majoring in chemical engineering, and he also is cross-registered at Harvard and earning a business degree.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Evan Gwozdz for his many accomplishments, and I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him and wishing him great success in the future. It is truly inspiring to see a such dynamic and passionate person follow their dream, and I know we will see more great things from him in the future.

HONORING GEORGE SMITH ON HIS
50TH ANNIVERSARY WITH THE
LEBANON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of George Smith of Lebanon, CT, who is celebrating his 50th anniversary as a member of the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department.

George, a native of Rocky Grove, PA, started his vocation as a public servant after graduating from high school in 1954. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in the Korean Conflict, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Vietnam Conflict over his 21 years of active military service, reaching the rank of E8 Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman.

George and his family moved to Lebanon, CT in 1966. Following in his first-responder parents' footsteps, he decided to become a firefighter and joined the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department in May 1968. In 1978, he joined the Lebanon Constabulary and served as a constable for a decade. He also provided emergency medical services and performed firefighting tasks. Over the course of his public service to the town he has also served as Fire Lieutenant, Fire Police Lieutenant, elected department secretary, and currently as Fire Police Captain.

For 50 years, George has been committed to serving Lebanon residents by protecting them, their families, pets, and livestock, as well as lands and properties throughout the town. He holds life member status at the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing George Smith's milestone anniversary as well as his remarkable record of service to the town of Lebanon. Volunteering one's life for the protection of others is no small sacrifice, and in this way, Mr. Smith has been exceptionally selfless. Let us all express our gratitude for this fine gentleman.

HONORING BILL AND KAYE
WHITEHEAD

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Bill and Kaye Whitehead for their contribution to our state and their community.

The Whiteheads have spent their lives serving the Delaware County community. They are full-time farmers but Bill and Kaye spend much of their time serving their community in numerous capacities. Their embodiment of "Hoosier hospitality" has truly made a difference in Delaware County and our state is better off today because of their extraordinary leadership and service.

On a personal note, I've known the Whiteheads for 18 years. Jennifer and I cherish their friendship. Bill, like me, overachieved